

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Extract 1

From Chapter 1 'Lucy looks into a wardrobe' and Chapter 2 'What Lucy found there'
From *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis

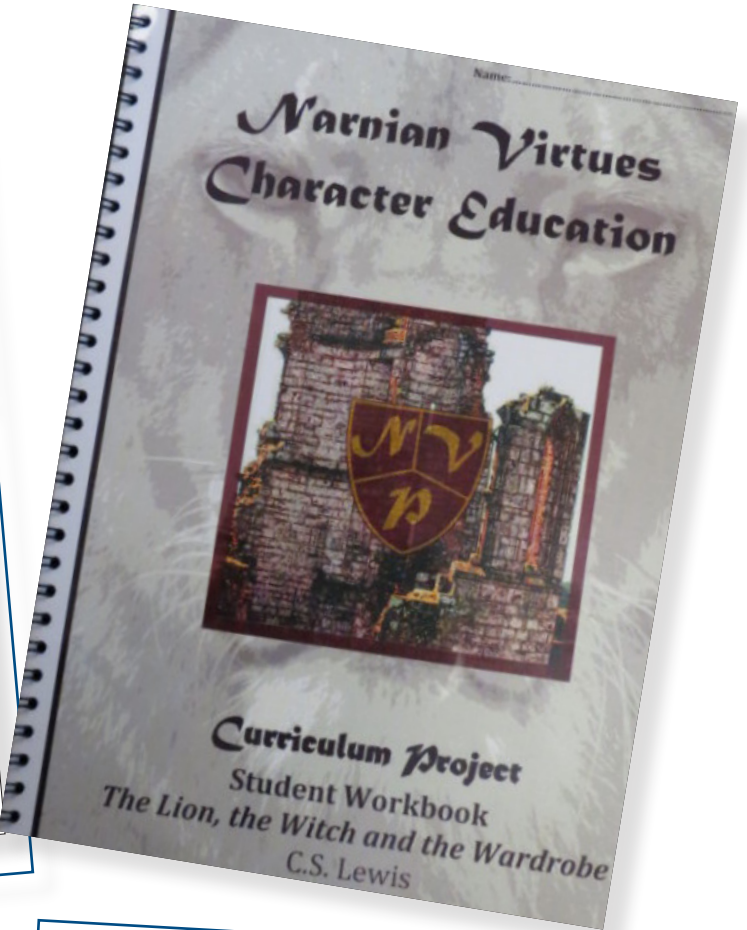
Lucy's curiosity and wisdom
Mr Tumnus' deceit and integrity

Context

Lucy is a brave and curious character, the youngest of the Pevensie children. She displays wisdom in judging the best course of action and not shutting the wardrobe door as she explores. Mr Tumnus greets Lucy as she enters Narnia; he is friendly and hospitable and Lucy feels safe with him. This is a trick. Mr Tumnus is under orders to hand Lucy over to the evil White Witch. At the risk to his own safety, Mr Tumnus follows his conscience, tells Lucy the truth and does the right thing, delivering her safely back to Narnia's exit rather than following the evil orders.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very curious and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree-trunks she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, crunch-crunch over the snow and through the wood towards the other light.

Lucy shows curiosity because she goes through the wardrobe to learn what is on the other side.
Lucy shows wisdom because she is careful not to shut the wardrobe door behind her.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When have you been adventurous but also exercised caution/wisdom?
- When have you had to take risks or do something new that was worthwhile?

We need to be wise as well as curious. You might be curious about train tracks but since children have been killed on them, it is foolish (unwise) to go on them.

- When have you thought of doing something wrong and then decided not to?
- Was it because of the people/person you would hurt?
- Did someone talk you out of doing it or did you decide for yourself? Explain.
- Mr Tumnus is really honest with himself. When have you been really honest with yourself?

"Oh - oh - oh!" sobbed Mr Tumnus, "I'm crying because I'm such a bad Faun."

"I don't think you're a bad Faun at all," said Lucy. "I think you are a very good Faun. You are the nicest Faun I've ever met."

"Oh - oh - you wouldn't say that if you knew," replied Mr Tumnus between his sobs. "No, I'm a bad Faun. I don't suppose there ever was a worse Faun since the beginning of the world."

"But what have you done?" asked Lucy?

"My old father, now," said Mr Tumnus; "that's his picture over the mantelpiece. He would never have done a thing like this."

"A thing like what?" said Lucy.

"Like what I've done," said the Faun. "Taken service under the White Witch. That's what I am. I'm in the pay of the White Witch."

"The White Witch? Who is she?"

"Why, it is she that has got all Narnia under her thumb. It's she that makes it always winter. Always winter and never Christmas; think of that!"

"How awful!" said Lucy. "But what does she pay you for?"

"That's the worst of it," said Mr Tumnus with a deep groan. "I'm a kidnapper for her; that's what I am. Look at me, Daughter of Eve. Would you believe that I'm the sort of Faun to meet a poor innocent child in the wood, one that had never done me any harm, and pretend to be friendly with it, and invite it home to my cave, all for the sake of lulling it asleep and then handing it over to the White Witch?"

"No," said Lucy. "I'm sure you wouldn't do anything of the sort."

"But I have," said the Faun.

Mr Tumnus shows integrity because he is honest with Lucy about his failings.
Mr Tumnus had been deceitful, because he was not truthful with Lucy; he only pretended to be her friend.